

REMARKS

Applicant is pleased to acknowledge the allowance of Claims 11-13, 23, 24 and 28 in the Official Action of February 2, 2004. Applicant also acknowledges the indication by the Examiner in the Official Action that Claims 25-27 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant believes that the claims as presently amended incorporate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

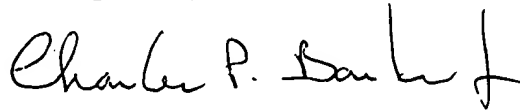
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 26 indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 26 has been canceled. Amended Claim 27 is dependent on Claim 1. Claim 25 has been canceled and rewritten in independent form as new Claim 29 which contains all of the limitations previously recited in Claims 1 and 25. Dependent Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to be consistent in terminology with amended Claim 1.

Based on the Examiner's indication that dependent Claims 25-27 recite patentable subject matter, applicant has rewritten Claims 25 and 26 in independent form (Claim 29 and Claim 1, respectively). Claim 27 remains in dependent form. Applicant believes that the amended Claim 1, dependent Claim 27 and new Claim 29 define patentable subject matter over the prior art references of record.

Further, in view of the Examiner's comments, applicant believes that Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-10, 16-22 which are dependent on amended Claim 1 define patentable subject matter over the prior art references of record and are now in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter and requests allowance of all claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles P. Boukus, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles P. Boukus, Jr.
Registration No. 24,754
Attorney for Applicant
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 202
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 415-2620

April 2, 2004